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called Dilaram." No doubt the Khash River is an interesting stream, and we might like to be told what kind of a valley it has, what its volume is, and its direction of flow, where the hills are, and their character. So far as we are concerned, it might as well be in the Sahara. So we are led from one inconsequential detail to another, and at the end of a paragraph, at the end of weary pages, we wonder if anything in that part of the world has a place or a meaning.

It is interesting to read that Seistan has suffered progressive dessication, but we wonder how this is arrived at by a "mental survey of the country." True it is affirmed that there are old beaches and deltas, but again there is no coherent account of the evidence, and not a single photograph, though the party made good pictures of some kinds of things. Two maps, following page 177, do illustrate the delta of the Helmand, but as a whole the account emphasizes that rarity of good geographic description on which Professor Davis has laid much emphasis. It is without method and conveys no adequate idea of the region, of its features, or of the principles illustrated in its physical history. A large number of full-page plates give effective reproductions of ancient human structures.

We have rarely seen a volume in which one could read so much and get so little. There are many facts, as there are many grains in an acre of Seistan sand. As to relative dryness no conclusion is here urged. The plan proposed in the preface to record information rather than aim at literary effect, is fully realized.

A. P. BRIGHAM.

### AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

**Reisen in Kaiser-Wilhelmsland (Neuguinea).** Von Dr. Otto Schlaginhaufen. 19 pp. Map, ills. Abhandl. und Berichte des Kgl. Zool. und Anthropol.-Ethnogr. Museums zu Dresden, Vol. XIII, 1910, No. 1. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. Mk. 6.50. 12½ x 10½.

When the German New Guinea Company made its start as a political balance weight to the British North Borneo Chartered Company there was immediate prospect of the exploration, even if not the commercial exploitation, of the northern slopes of the great and little-known island. But when that company surrendered its plans to an imperial protectorate the interest slackened and for several years no activity of discovery was manifest. Now that the colony has been associated with the earlier and better founded settlement of the Bismarck Archipelago there has been a considerable revival of interest. In this pamphlet Dr. Schlaginhaufen presents the cursory record of two inland trips which in 1909 he accomplished into the unknown inner land of New Guinea. One was the exploration, to a distance of more than a degree of latitude, of the lower course of the Kaiserin Augusta river, which debouches a few miles north of 4° S. The other was a mountain climb across the mass of the Torricelli Mountains and a visit to the inland communities of Apur and Akur. Every such report, brief though it be, is of inestimable value in adding to our knowledge of this least-known of the great islands of the world.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

### EUROPE

**Dünenbuch.** Werden und Wandern der Dünen, Pflanzen- und Tierleben auf den Dünen, Dünenbau. Bearbeitet von F. Solger, P. Graebner, J. Thienemann, P. Speiser und F. W. O. Schulze. viii and 404 pp. Ills. Ferdinand Enke, Stuttgart, 1910. Mk. 10. 9 x 6.

A description and study of sand dunes on the German coasts. The geological part was written by Professor Solger, the botanical by Professor Graebner, the zoological by Dr. Thienemann, the entomological by Dr. Speiser, and the technical by Professor Schulze.

Professor Solger distinguishes three types of dunes which correspond each to a certain type of shallow coast. On bluff coasts no dunes are formed because the land, being continuously eaten away by the waves, leaves no place for the sands to collect. The shallow coast in process of advancement is the typical dune coast. It has a sand beach with a wooded or shrubby hinterland back of it. The sand blowing inland from the beach gathers along the out-